

Become a Grants.gov Fellow—An Opportunity of a Lifetime!

WHAT IS WWW.GRANTS.GOV?

Grants.gov is one of 24 E-Gov initiatives that allows the grants community to find and apply for Federal grant opportunities online. The Federal government awards over \$400 billion annually through grants to individual citizens, state, local and tribal governments, non-profit organizations, educational and research organizations, and public housing authorities. Grants.gov has developed Find and Apply functionality that reduces the time and effort required to identify available grant opportunities, and standardizes the process and data for applying for Federal grants. The initiative also enables the government to meet many of the streamlining activities required by P.L. 106-107 (Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999), such as deploying a unified search/find capability for grant opportunities, standard data sets, and a common mechanism and process for applying for and managing Federal grant funds. Grants.gov is a successful initiative that has received many awards and recognition, including:

- > *National Grants Management Association (NGMA) Electronic Solutions Award*
- > *2004 HHS Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service*

Additionally, Grants.gov has been recognized for the impact, technology and innovation of the site as follows:

- > *FOSE 2004 and 2005 Showcase of Excellence Awards*
- > *2004 Government Computer News (GCN) Agency Award*
- > *2004 American Productivity and Quality Center (APQC) Best-Practice Partner*

WHO CAN BECOME A GRANTS.GOV FELLOW?

The Grants.gov Fellow Program is intended for individuals who are interested in contributing to and learning from an innovative Federal E-Gov initiative, providing you with the unique experience of working on a government-wide project that is streamlining the way the Federal government does business. Grants.gov Fellow candidates can be from Federal agencies and grantee organizations including:

- > *Grants Policy and Management professionals*
- > *Information Technology professionals*
- > *Communication and Technical Assistance professionals*
- > *Program Management and Operations professionals*

What do Grants.gov Fellows Do?

Fellows contribute to the success of Grants.gov by working on a one-year detail for the project while being paid by the employee's home agency or organization. While working at Grants.gov, Fellows garner unique skills and experiences in one or more of the following areas:

1. Grants Policy and Strategy

Grants Policy and Strategy staff pursue improvements to the effectiveness and performance of Federal grants programs and the simplification/standardization of application practices. They work closely with Office of Management and Budget and Federal agencies to analyze and facilitate the standardization of grant processes and data, and coordinate interagency work group activities. The staff also works with System Implementation staff to ensure that the system complies with government-wide policies.

2. System Implementation

System Implementation staff are involved in the technical design, development, testing, deployment and management of the Grants.gov system. The staff manages the system's lifecycle, incorporating sound information technology management principles and best practices for systems development and management. The staff also works with Federal agencies to implement data standards and

What it Means to be a Grants.gov Fellow

"Being detailed to Grants.gov was a career changing experience that I highly recommend!"

— *Kimberly M. Deutsch, National Science Foundation*

"Having various Federal agencies perspectives represented in the Grants.gov Program Management Office is important to the success of Grants.gov since it provides Grants.gov insight into what is important to the agency's grantee community and, thus, what is important to the agency."

— *Terry Nicolosi, detailed from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 2003-2005*

"Being part of a solution transforming the way the Federal government does business is exciting and challenging."

— *Peter Brunner, Department of Labor*

"I started as a six month Detailee from the Department of Education and now I'm the Grants.gov Program Manager. I welcome others to experience the benefits, growth and career opportunities at Grants.gov."

— *Rebecca Spitzgo, Grants.gov Program Manager*

"Working with the Grants.gov Program Management Office brought me personal visibility and contact with other Federal Agencies and high level managers. It is career-enhancing and advanced my skills and knowledge."

— *Diana King Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families*

automation improvements identified through policy and process improvement reviews.

3. Communications and Outreach

Communication and Outreach staff are involved in the provision of customer support and training for users, and outreach activities for potential system users and other stakeholders. The team responds to public questions, as well as work with stakeholder groups and Federal agencies to provide information on how to gain access to, and use of the system.

4. Program Operations

Program Operations staff provides ongoing Grants.gov

management, logistical, and administrative support in the areas of planning, contracting, financial management, performance reporting and program coordination. The team develops plans and budgets, and monitors all areas of Grants.gov performance.

Grants.gov will strive to produce the most effective match between employee skills/experience and the roles needed for the initiative.

How Do I Become A Grants.gov Fellow?

Download the application form from www.grants.gov/fellows, complete the form and return it to Grants.gov.

BENEFITS TO EMPLOYEES WHO ARE DETAILED TO GRANTS.GOV:

- > The opportunity to participate in a cross-government initiative.
- > The opportunity to work in a dynamic, start-up environment that will affect grants processes and policy across the government.
- > The opportunity to make contacts in other grant-making agencies, OMB, vendors, and government leaders.
- > The opportunity to work on an award-winning E-Gov Initiative with a highly motivated team of professionals that is changing the way the Federal government does business.
- > The opportunity to make a difference and impact the direction of the Federal grants process.
- > The opportunity to build Executive Core Qualifications (ECQs) for Senior Executive Service (SES) positions. For more information about ECQs, go to <http://www.opm.gov/ses/competencies.asp>.

BENEFITS TO PARTICIPATING AGENCY AND GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE LONGER-TERM STAFF COMMITMENTS TO GRANTS.GOV:

- > Participating organizations gain “insider” knowledge of the initiative, which is best provided by having an agency person on the “inside” of the initiative.
- > The organization perspectives brought by longer-term Fellows will help ensure that the Grants.gov solutions meet the needs and provide the closest fit to the agency requirements and grantee needs.
- > The organization will reap the benefit of the employee’s experience with Grants.gov, including;
 - Insights into adapting Grants.gov solutions to organization needs.
 - Development of the employee as a result of the experience of participating in a cross-government initiative.
 - Contribution of Full Time Employee (FTE) is a concrete demonstration of organization participation and support for Grants.gov, which can be useful in discussions of management scorecard ratings for agencies.

GRANTS.GOV

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